In tribute to Miss Barton, her Dansville neighbors organized, August 22, 1881, the "Dansville Society of the Red Cross," which now bears her name and is designated as Chapter No. 1.

AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS

CLARA BARTON CHAPTER NO. 1

57 ELIZABETH STREET

DANSVILLE, N.Y.

(TELEPHONE: DANSVILLE 220)

CHAPTER AREA
(Townships)
NORTH DANSVILLE
WAYLAND
SPRINGWATER
SPARTA
OSSIAN
WEST SPARTA
GROVELAND
SONYEA UNIT

February 4, 1963

THE HALL OF FAME FOR GREAT AMERICANS AT NYU
RECEIVED
FEB - 6 1963

Mrs. Freda T. Hliddal
Curator
The Hall of Fame for Great Americans
1009 Fifth Avenue
New York 28, N.Y.

Dear Mrs. Hliddal:

Thank you for writing us so promptly after our registered letter to Dr. Sockman (as Hall of Fame Director) finally reached your office. We should have consulted a New York telephone directory under Hall of Fame to make sure of the best address to use. The World Almanac for 1961 gave only Dr. Sockman's name and no address at all. The item concluded:

> "The Hall was endowed by Mrs. Helen Gould Shepard. Busts and tablets are donated....."

The 1962 World Almanac information is essentially the same:

> "The Hall of Fame for Great Americans was a gift to the American people by Mrs. Helen Gould Shepard. New York University acts as Trustee of the Shrine for the nation. Busts and tablets are donated...."

As a matter of curiosity, we have since compared the item in the Information Please Almanac for 1962:

> "The Hall of Fame for Great Americans, established in 1900 on the campus of New York University, is an open-air colonnade with busts and tablets for 86 of the 89 persons so far honored for national achievements. New names are voted on every five years by a College of Electors of about 100 eminent men and women, from all the states. To be elected to the Hall of Fame, an individual must have been dead more than 25 years (before 1922, the stipulation was 10 years), must have been a citizen of the U.S., and must receive a majority vote. Nominations may be made by any citizen."

Possibly you will feel that both these sources of information might well be more specific, to avoid misunderstandings.

[The Chapter House is a Memorial to Emma Hartman Noyes, a Charter Member of the Chapter. It was her home for many years. In 1949, it was presented to the American Red Cross by her sons and daughter—Nicholas H. Noyes, Jansen Noyes, and Katherine F. Noyes.]

We were so much impressed by the word "endowed," which occurs in the World Almanac text, that we failed to consider the probable implications of "donated." Since our letter was written, I have heard from a Massachusetts friend, who is familiar with what took place when Thoreau was nominated. He says that contributions were made by a number of individuals and organizations, and that the total expense involved was large.

This knowledge places our "informal nomination" of Clara Barton in a new light. Neither our chapter, nor the American National Red Cross, has funds available for other purposes than maintaining the services of the organization and meeting running expenses.

Any memorials to Clara Barton that have had Red Cross support (such as a marker near the Battlefield of the Second Battle of Manassas--Bull Run--in Virginia, and a monument on the Battlefield of Antietam in Maryland) have involved relatively little expenditure. The slab of marble used at Antietam was donated to the Washington County Chapter.

Evidently we have been laboring under a misapprehension regarding the Hall of Fame. The matter will be placed before our Executive Committee on February 14. I feel sure that under the circumstances our only course will be to withdraw Miss Barton's name. There seems to be no possibility that, in the Spring of 1964, we would be in a position to complete the nomination forms to which you refer.

Clara Barton would have been glad to know that Susan B. Anthony, her good friend, had received deserved recognition. She once said: "I would have the first monument that is ever erected to any woman in this country reared to her." That was back in 1867, when she was lecturing in Iowa, and found that a placard advertising her lecture referred slightingly to Miss Anthony. Following her lecture, she launched on an impromtu and quite fiery defense of Susan B. and the Suffrage Movement; speaking to an audience largely of Civil War veterans, she concluded by calling for "Three cheers for Susan B. Anthony!" Writing of this later to Frances E. Willard, she said, "And the very windows shook in their casements."

Sincerely yours,

William D. Conklin

William D. Conklin
Public Information Chairman

cc: Exec. Sec'y

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